

DETAILED ACTION

Current Status

1. This action is responsive to Applicants' amendment of 29 December 2009.
2. Receipt and entry of Applicants' amendment is acknowledged.
3. Claims 11-15 are actively pending in the application.

This application is a 371 of PCT/EP04/10960 10/10/2004.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Teoli, Jr. on 06/07/2010.

The Application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-10 have been canceled.

In claim 11 line 2 delete "NMST", insert -2-nitro4-methylsulphonyl toluene (NMST)-.

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In claim 11, line 2 delete "NMSBA", insert -2-nitro-4-methylsulphonyl benzoic acid (NMSBA)-.

In claim 11, line 3 delete "NMSBC", -insert -2-nitro-4-methylsulphonyl benzoyl chloride- (NMSBC)-.

In claim 11, line 8, step v after the word "processes" insert -on the mesotrione enolate formed in iv-.

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In claim 11, line 9, delete "crystallising the purified mesotrione out of solution" insert -
crystallizing the purified mesotrione enolate out of solution-.

Allowed Claims

Claim 11-15 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 11-15 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chukwuma O. Nwaonicha whose telephone number is 571-272-2908. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Sullivan can be reached on 571-272-0779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Daniel M Sullivan/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1621